UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND

STATE OF NEW YORK et al.

Case No. 25-cv-00039-JJM-PAS

Plaintiff

v.

DONALD J. TRUMP, in his official capacity as President of the United States

Defendant

AMICUS CURIAE FRIEND OF THE COURT BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY AND SEPARATION OF POWERS

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I. INTRODUCTION & STATEMENT OF INTEREST

I, Rubin Young, Pro Se, submit this Friend of the Court Amicus Curiae Brief to affirm the constitutional authority of the President of the United States, specifically in the exercise of executive orders, and to address the unconstitutional actions taken by members of Congress to undermine the President's authority. This brief is submitted in support of President Donald J. Trump in the case of State of New York v. Donald J. Trump, Case No. 25-cv-39, filed in the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island.

This brief aims to highlight the historical importance of maintaining the separation of powers, as outlined in the U.S. Constitution. It is critical that the Executive Branch retains its authority to execute laws without undue interference from either the Legislative Branch or the Judiciary. Members of Congress who engage in oath violations by inciting resistance to presidential actions, or who publicly declare opposition to the President's executive powers, must be held accountable.

The presidential power to issue executive orders is integral to the proper functioning of the executive branch and has been consistently recognized by the Supreme Court and historical precedent. This brief draws upon significant historical examples where executive authority was vital to maintaining national security and public order, including the presidencies of Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant.

II. EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY UNDER THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

A. The Executive Vesting Clause (Article II, Section 1, Clause 1)

The U.S. Constitution vests the executive power exclusively in the President. According to Article II, Section 1, Clause 1:

"The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America."

This Executive Vesting Clause affirms that only the President has the constitutional authority to execute the laws passed by Congress. The President is entrusted with the task of enforcing federal law, conducting foreign relations, and ensuring that the laws are faithfully executed, as required under Article II, Section 3. This authority includes the power to issue executive orders to carry out the responsibilities of the Executive Branch.

It is clear from this clause that the President's executive power cannot be interfered with or obstructed by Congress or the judiciary. The executive branch is independent and vested with exclusive authority over executive orders—a cornerstone of separation of powers.

B. The Take Care Clause (Article II, Section 3)

The Take Care Clause, located in Article II, Section 3, further emphasizes the President's constitutional obligation to faithfully execute the laws:

"He shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed..."

This clause places an affirmative duty on the President to ensure the enforcement of the laws passed by Congress. It is under this duty that the President issues executive orders—to direct federal agencies and ensure the proper execution of federal law. This clause underscores the

C. Judicial Precedent on Executive Authority

1. Mississippi v. Johnson, 71 U.S. 475 (1867)

o In Mississippi v. Johnson, the Supreme Court affirmed that federal courts have no jurisdiction to enjoin a President from executing his constitutional duties.

This case involved an attempt to prevent President Andrew Johnson from carrying out his Reconstruction policies. The Court held that courts do not have the authority to interfere with the executive's constitutional functions.

2. Franklin v. Massachusetts, 505 U.S. 788 (1992)

The Supreme Court reaffirmed that the **President** is not an "agency" subject to the **Administrative Procedure Act (APA)**. Executive orders, as issued by the President, are not subject to judicial review in the same manner as administrative regulations. This reinforces the notion that the executive branch is distinct and independent from the judiciary.

3. Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v. Sawyer, 343 U.S. 579 (1952)

o In Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v. Sawyer, the Court ruled that the President has the authority to act independently in his executive role when executing the law, particularly in matters of national security. The case affirmed the principle that the President's power in executing the law should not be hampered by judicial or legislative obstruction.

III. JUDICIAL OVERREACH AND THE LIMITS OF COURT INTERVENTION IN **EXECUTIVE ORDERS**

A. The Political Question Doctrine

The Political Question Doctrine, articulated in Baker v. Carr (1962), asserts that courts should refrain from intervening in matters that are constitutionally committed to another branch of government. This includes issues of national security, foreign policy, and executive action—all areas that fall within the exclusive domain of the President.

The judiciary must avoid involvement in cases where the Executive Branch is exercising its constitutional discretion. In instances where executive orders are issued, courts cannot interfere with the execution of federal law unless there is a clear constitutional violation.

B. Judicial Review and the Separation of Powers

While the judiciary plays an important role in interpreting the law, it must not overstep its authority by obstructing the executive branch. In Marbury v. Madison (1803), the Supreme Court established judicial review, but the Court has also emphasized that courts must exercise restraint in matters of executive discretion, particularly when those matters concern national defense or foreign relations.

The Supreme Court in Mississippi v. Johnson reaffirmed the concept that the executive branch cannot be compelled by lower courts to abandon its duty to execute federal law. This doctrine ensures that the President retains full authority to enforce laws without judicial interference.

IV. UNCONSTITUTIONAL ACTIONS OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: OATH VIOLATIONS & INSURRECTION

A. Violations of the Oath of Office

According to Article VI, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, members of Congress swear an oath to:

"support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic..."

When members of Congress publicly challenge the President's authority to execute his constitutional duties, they are not merely exercising political disagreement; they are violating their constitutional oaths. Their conduct, in which they openly incite resistance or oppose the lawful execution of federal laws, amounts to insurrection—an unconstitutional effort to undermine the executive branch and disrupt the balance of powers.

B. Historical Examples of Congressional Overreach and Insurrection

1. President Abraham Lincoln

- During the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln exercised executive authority through emergency powers to preserve the Union. The Emancipation Proclamation, an executive order issued by Lincoln, was crucial in ending slavery and preserving the nation. However, his actions were met with resistance from certain members of Congress who sought to limit his power.
- Lincoln's executive authority was vital for keeping the nation intact, despite congressional opposition. His ability to issue executive orders and take military action without legislative interference was essential in maintaining national unity.

This example shows how executive orders can be necessary to uphold constitutional integrity in times of national crisis.

2. President Ulysses S. Grant

- President Ulysses S. Grant also faced significant resistance from Congress during Reconstruction. His efforts to enforce civil rights through military intervention and the Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871 were opposed by members of Congress who sought to limit executive action.
- Despite this resistance, Grant's actions were essential in ensuring the protection of
 African American rights and reinforcing the Constitution. His administration
 demonstrates the importance of executive action in enforcing constitutional
 amendments and protecting the freedmen in the South.

V. LEGAL CONSEQUENCES: EXPULSION & CRIMINAL PROSECUTION UNDER FEDERAL LAW

A. Expulsion Under Article I, Section 5

Under Article I, Section 5, Clause 2, Congress has the authority to expel members who engage in disorderly conduct. Members who publicly resist the lawful execution of the President's constitutional duties are engaging in actions that undermine the separation of powers and threaten the constitutional structure. This conduct constitutes disorderly behavior and justifies expulsion under the Constitution.

When lawmakers incite resistance or declare opposition to the President's lawful actions, they must face the consequences of their insurrectionist conduct. Congress has the

of the executive branch. These lawmakers' behavior is detrimental to national security and public order and represents a grave violation of the oath of office they took when assuming their position.

B. Criminal Prosecution Under Federal Law

In addition to expulsion, members of Congress who have engaged in insurrectionist conduct must be criminally prosecuted for their actions. Under the U.S. Code, specifically 18 U.S.C. § 2383 (Rebellion or Insurrection), 18 U.S.C. § 2384 (Seditious Conspiracy), and 18 U.S.C. § 2385 (Advocating Overthrow of Government), these actions are considered criminal offenses.

1. 18 U.S.C. § 2383 – Rebellion or Insurrection

This statute criminalizes rebellion or insurrection against the U.S. government.

Lawmakers who actively resist the lawful execution of executive orders and encourage subversion of the constitutional authority of the President are in direct violation of this statute. The penalty includes up to 10 years in prison and permanent disqualification from holding future office.

2. 18 U.S.C. § 2384 – Seditious Conspiracy

o This law criminalizes conspiring to overthrow the U.S. government or oppose the authority of the President. Lawmakers who incite violence or encourage subversion of executive orders are guilty of seditious conspiracy. This offense carries a penalty of up to 20 years in prison.

3. 18 U.S.C. § 2385 – Advocating Overthrow of Government

o This statute prohibits advocating for the overthrow of the U.S. government or inciting resistance against the lawful authority of the Executive Branch.

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Lawmakers publicly opposing the President's lawful actions are in violation of this statute, and they must face criminal penalties under the law.

These criminal offenses are not just minor violations; they represent an attack on the very structure of our government and should be treated with the severity they deserve.

Congress must act to remove these individuals from office and hold them criminally accountable for their actions.

VI. HISTORICAL PRECEDENTS AGAINST CONGRESSIONAL OVERREACH & INSURRECTIONIST ACTS

A. The Framers' Vision: Separation of Powers and Preventing Overreach

The Framers of the Constitution were keenly aware of the dangers of concentrating power in any one branch of government. The separation of powers was designed to prevent one branch from infringing upon the authority of another. As James Madison famously wrote in Federalist No. 47:

"The accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive, and judiciary, in the same hands... may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny."

The Framers believed that Congress should make laws, the President should execute them, and the Judiciary should interpret them. Each branch must respect the independence of the other. The President's power to issue executive orders is essential for the faithful execution of the law, and Congress must not undermine or block the Executive Branch from performing its constitutional duties.

B. President Abraham Lincoln and Congressional Resistance Reinstatements

Again, during Abraham Lincoln's presidency, Congress faced intense opposition to executive action, particularly regarding the Emancipation Proclamation. Though the Proclamation was vital to preserving the Union and ending slavery, some members of Congress opposed Lincoln's use of executive power to issue it. Despite this opposition, Lincoln's executive authority was upheld as necessary to save the Union during the Civil War.

In this historical context, executive orders were not just a matter of presidential discretion, but a vital tool for ensuring national survival. Congress's resistance to the executive branch's authority would have jeopardized the nation's future and delayed critical actions that were central to Union victory.

C. President Ulysses S. Grant and Congressional Overreach

After the Civil War, President Ulysses S. Grant was confronted with significant opposition from Congress regarding his Reconstruction policies. Congress attempted to block his efforts to enforce civil rights and protect African Americans in the South. President Grant took decisive executive actions under the Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871, which gave him the authority to combat violence and intimidation by racist groups.

Despite this congressional opposition, Grant's executive orders were critical to enforcing the 14th and 15th Amendments, which guaranteed citizenship and voting rights to freed slaves.

Grant's use of executive action highlights the critical role of the President in protecting the Constitution during times of national crisis, and underscores the danger of congressional overreach.

VII. THE ROLE OF CONGRESS & THE JUDICIARY IN RELATION TO EXECUTIVE **AUTHORITY**

A. Congress's Role: Legislation, Not Executive Oversight

The U.S. Constitution grants Congress the power to make laws but does not give it the power to execute or enforce them. Article I define Congress's role in creating law, while Article II grants the President the exclusive authority to execute those laws. Congress's role is to create legislation, while the President's role is to enforce it.

Congress must not use its legislative power to obstruct or interfere with the executive branch's authority to enforce the law. If Congress disagrees with the President's executive actions, its proper recourse is to amend laws, create new laws, or override vetoes, not to interfere with executive action.

B. The Judiciary's Role: Judicial Review, Not Executive Control

The judiciary is responsible for interpreting laws and reviewing the constitutionality of actions, but it has no authority to prevent the President from executing the laws. In Mississippi v. Johnson, the Supreme Court affirmed that courts cannot enjoin the President from carrying out his constitutional duties. The judiciary must respect the President's exclusive role in executing federal law.

C. Judicial Overreach and the Separation of Powers

If courts begin to block executive orders or usurp the President's role in executing laws, it undermines the separation of powers and concentrates too much power in the judiciary. Courts should avoid getting involved in matters of executive discretion, especially when it concerns the President's duty to enforce laws.

VIII. REMEDIES: REMOVAL FROM OFFICE, CRIMINAL ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT

A. Expulsion Under Article I, Section 5

Members of Congress who publicly resist the lawful execution of the President's executive orders must be expelled from office under Article I, Section 5, Clause 2. This clause allows Congress to expel members who engage in disorderly conduct that undermines the constitutional structure. Expulsion is a necessary remedy when lawmakers attempt to subvert the executive branch by interfering with the President's constitutional duties.

B. Criminal Prosecution Under Federal Law

These actions must also be met with **criminal prosecution** under the relevant statutes: 18 U.S.C. §§ 2383, 2384, and 2385, which criminalize rebellion, insurrection, and seditious conspiracy. Lawmakers who engage in this type of insurrectionist conduct must face criminal penalties to deter future violations of their oaths of office.

IX. CONCLUSION: THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING EXECUTIVE INDEPENDENCE

The executive authority of the President is essential for maintaining constitutional order, national security, and the proper functioning of the U.S. government. It is imperative that Congress and the judiciary respect the President's exclusive role in executing federal law.

Members of Congress who engage in insurrectionist conduct by resisting the lawful execution of executive orders must be expelled and criminally prosecuted. The separation of powers must be upheld, and executive authority must be preserved to ensure that the President can execute the law without undue interference. The President's executive authority is critical to the proper functioning of the U.S. government, particularly in matters of national security, foreign policy, and the execution of laws. Judicial overreach that interferes with presidential duties or obstructs the President's executive orders undermines the separation of powers and disrupts constitutional governance. Members of Congress who engage in insurrectionist actions must be held accountable through expulsion and criminal prosecution.

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X. CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

Pursuant to Fed. R. App. P. 32(a)(7) and the applicable local rules of the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington, I hereby certify that:

- 1. This brief complies with the type-volume limitation because it contains 4252 words, excluding the parts of the brief exempted by Fed. R. App. P. 32(f).
- 2. This brief complies with the typeface and formatting requirements of Fed. R. App. P. 32(a)(5) and (6) because it has been prepared in a proportionally spaced typeface using [e.g., Microsoft Word in Times New Roman, 12-point font].

Dated: February 11, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

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XI. CERTIFICATE OF INTERESTED PERSONS

I certify that the following parties have an interest in this case:

- 1. State of New York (Plaintiff)
- 2. **Donald J. Trump** (Defendant, President of the United States)
- 3. Members of Congress who allegedly participated in the insurrectionist press conference

XII. CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Rubin Young, Pro Se, hereby certify that on February 11, 2025, I served a true and correct copy of the Amicus Curiae Brief upon the following parties, via U.S. Mail and/or electronic service as required by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure:

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